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H – 1084

International Court of Justice

H1084-0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

SUBMISSION OF AFFIDAVITS BY THE DEFENSE PURSUANT TO THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 5 JULY 1946.

3 August 1946

COMMISSIONER:

Mr. George R. Taylor

S. D.

(THE COMMISSION CONVENED AT 1015 HOURS.)

COMMISSIONER: The Commission will convene for the purpose of hearing affidavits on behalf of the SD. The Commission understands that counsel for defense has one witness from whom he wants to take an affidavit this morning.

DR. GAWLIK: Yes, sir, a female witness.

COMMISSIONER: Under order of the Tribunal of 1 August 1946 all affidavits not submitted by one o'clock today will not be accepted. Therefore, the Commission suggests that you, as soon as we hear the present affidavits, get your witness and obtain the affidavit before one o'clock.

DR. GAWLIK: The witness has just arrived. I will immediately go down to the prison and have the affidavit written and signed.

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COMMISSIONER: Proceed with your first affidavit now, please.

DR. GAWLIK: I now desire to submit SD affidavit No. 65 of Professor Dr. Gerhard Ritter, the summary of which is as follows:

Since 1925 Professor of History at Freiburg University. Neither a member of the NSDAP nor of any of its affiliated formations. A friend of Goerdelers and intended to be minister of culture for the new Cabinet. Arrested in November 1944 in connection with the events of 20 July. Liberated on 25 April 1945 by the Russian Army from the prison in Berlin. Tasks and aims of the SD Co-operative Group:

1. Information of the supreme SD leadership (I don't know the exact term), bad feeling within the population and criticism circulating concerning party measures.

2. Bringing about the connection between the SD leadership and recognized scientists for purposes not quite clear to me. This might have been for the purpose of having an independent influence on politics from a cultural aspect.

3. Supervision of individual persons partly with a view to their scientific attitudes.

Aims and work of the confidence agents are essentially the same as those of the co-operative groups. SD News

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Information was to give a picture corresponding to the feeling and conditions contrary to the official reports that were dressed up.

Although the SD knew of the political attitude of Professor Ritter the Gestapo did not take any notice of this.

COMMISSIONER: There being no objections to the affidavit the same will be marked SD NO. 65 for identification, and the request of counsel that the same be translated is noted in the record.

* * * * *

DR GAWLIK: I now desire to submit Affidavit No. 66 of OTTO SKORZENY. The following is a summary thereof:

The aims, tasks and activities of Group VI S.

VI S meant the group "training". The tasks and work of Group VI S was to train and prepare the persons named by the lender groups of AMT VI for their work. Group VI S did not have the mission of committing crimes against peace, laws of war, and humanity. Acts of sabotage in Denmark were neither ordered nor carried out by Group VI S. No parts of AMT VI were employed for acts of sabotage in Denmark. The work of Group VI S was not generally known.

The News Service of the SD to the Party Chancellory did not have the purpose of supporting conspiracy, but to eliminate the existing bad conditions.

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LT CMDR HARRIS: This Affidavit No. 66 is so incomplete that I don't think that in any sense does it describe the functions of Group VI, nor the activities carried out in Denmark. I am going to request that if this affidavit is accepted the prosecution be permitted to have a supplement affidavit accompany it.

DR. GAWLIK: I agree with the prosecution about the supplementary affidavit.

LT CMDR HARRIS: That supplementary affidavit will be Supplement to SD NO. 66.

COMMISSIONER: How soon can counsel obtain this supplementary affidavit for the record?

LT CMDR HARRIS: We will try to get it today, if possible.

COMMISSIONER: Then you will furnish a copy to the defense counsel and bring the affidavit over to the office, for the record?

LT CMDR HARRIS: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER: Let the affidavit then be marked SD NO. 66 for identification, request for translation noted, as also the objection made.

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DR GAWLIK: I now desire to submit Affidavit No. 67, by JUSTUS BEYER. The following is a summary:

By reason of my work in the Party Chancellory as a consultant I know that numerous reports were

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continued to be received in the Party Chancellory issued by RSHA AMT III that concerned themselves critically with existing irregularities.

The SD did not have any part in lynching.

COMMISSIONER: There being no objections to the affidavit, the same is hereby marked SD NO. 67 for identification, and the request of counsel for translation is noted in the record.

* * * * *

DR. GAWLIK: The next affidavit, No. 68, by HANS STEINER, of which the following is a summary:

In July or August 1944 the Fuehrer of the SD Sector had issued the following order in the SD Sector of Munich: "It is forbidden by any member of the SD to have any hand in any hostile actions against enemy airplane crew that have been shot down; on the contrary, all possible steps are to be taken to suppress them at the very start."

COMMISSIONER: There being no objections to the affidavit the same is marked SD NO. 68 for identification, and the request of counsel for translation is noted.

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COMMISSIONER: Do you have any further affidavits to submit?

DR GAWLIK: I have one which I willcomplete and submit to the Commission before one o'clock.

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COMMISSIONER: Very well. The Commission will now recess until 1100 hours.

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The forgoing is a true and correct transcript of the submission of Affidavits by DR. GAWLIK, taken on 3 August 1946.

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CERTIFIED TO : Geo Kay Co.

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 31 MARCH 1946.

SUBMISSION OF AFFIDAVITS BY THE DEFENSE PURSUANT TO THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 5 JULY 1946.

3 August 1946.

COMMISSIONER:

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S. D.

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1. Information of the supreme SD leadership (I don't know the exact

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term), bad feeling within the population and criticism circulating concerning party measures.

2. Bringing about the connection between the SD leadership and recognized scientists for purposes not quite clear to me. This might have been for the purpose of having an independent influence on politics from a cultural aspect.

3. Supervision of individual persons partly with a view to their scientific attitudes.

Aims and work of the confidence agents are essentially the same as those of the co-operative groups. SD News Information was to give a picture corresponding to the feeling and conditions contrary to the official reports that were dressed up.

Although the SD knew of the political attitude of Professor Ritter the Gestapo did not take any notice of this.

COMMISSIONER: There being no objections to the affidavit the same will be marked SD No. 65 for identification, and the request of counsel that the same be translated is noted in the record.

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The News Service of the SD to the Party Chancellory did not have the purpose of supporting conspiracy, but to eliminate the existing bad conditions.

LT. CMDR. HARRIS: This Affidavit No 66 is so incomplete that I don't think that in any sense does it describe the functions of Group VI, nor the activities carried out in Denmark. I am going to request that if this

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affidavit is accepted the prosecution be permitted to have a supplement affidavit accompany it.

DR. GAWLIK: I agree with the prosecution about the supplementary affidavit.

LT CMDR HARRIS: That supplementary affidavit will be Supplement to SD No. 66.

COMMISSIONER: How soon can counsel obtain this supplementary affidavit for therecord?

LT. CMDR. HARRIS: We will try to get it today, if possible.

COMMISSIONER: Then you will furnish a copy to the defense counsel and bring the affidavit over to the offi. , for therecord?

LT. CMDR HARRIS: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER: Let the affidavit then be marked SD No. 66 for identification, request for translation noted, as also the object made.

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COMMISSIONER: There being no objections to the affidavit the same is marked SD No. 68 for identification, and the request of counsel for translation is noted.

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COMMISSIONER: Do you have any further affidavits to submit?

DR. GAWLIK: I have one which I will complete and submit to the Commission before one o'clock.

COMMISSIONER: Very well. The Commission will now recess until 1100 hours.

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The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the submission of Affidavits by DR. GAWLIK, taken on 3 August 1946.

Biolsi
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

George R. Taylor
Commissioner